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VILLANOVA BEATS SAINT JOSEPH'S {page 23}

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RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Embattled. Landmark

▶ The Church of the Assumption will avoid the wrecking ball thanks to a last-minute reprieve. The historic building needs about $5 million in repairs. {page 4}

Sold into slavery: Putting a face on local sex trafficking

City Council probes the fastest-growing business in organized crime ◐ Philly 'poised to become major hub of human trafficking,' one official says {page 02}

technology

Twitter versus Instagram

Twitter unveils photo tools after last week's Instagram snub ◐ New app offers pics, video and audio {page 06}

Give the gift of local music {page 19}

The best shopping around town {page 30}

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Human trafficking hits close to home in Philly

- City could be part of a pipeline for traffickers, according to experts
- Council yesterday began tackling international issue with local ties

Members of City Council met yesterday in an attempt to put a face on modern day human trafficking in Philadelphia, which, as one official testified, all too often goes unrecognized.

"The secretive nature of human trafficking means that law enforcement workers are not always the first responders," Assistant District Attorney Shea Rhodes said. She emphasized the need for broader education about how to recognize victims, who often first encounter the system through hospitals, schools, advocacy agencies or rehabilitation programs.

Rhodes recounted the case of Calvin Freeman, who she called "a kingpin of human trafficking." Freeman was arrested last summer for allegedly beating and strangling a woman, then forcing her at gunpoint to go back out and work the street. Investigators didn't realize the woman was a trafficking victim and bussed her back to her hometown the night of Freeman's arrest.

"Ultimately, this led to her disappearance and made it impossible to bring Freeman to trial," Rhodes said. "To make matters worse, we now believe that Freeman had many other victims in and around Philadelphia — but without the assistance of the first woman, it was impossible to identify and assist those other victims."

Advocates told scores of similar stories about local teens — many of them runaways — who are physically and mentally abused, housed in squalor and manipulated into the underground sex economy, often by close friends or temporary guardians who promise them a better life.

"Cases like this are not uncommon," Rhodes said. "And, in fact, Philadelphia — with its international airport, bus and train stations, busy harbor and intersections with major highways — is poised to become a major hub of human trafficking."

Quoted

"Philadelphia — with its international airport, bus and train stations, busy harbor and intersections with major highways — is poised to become a major hub of human trafficking."
RHODES

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jada Pinkett Smith, wife of Philadelphia native Will Smith, rear, has testified extensively this year about ending human trafficking in the United States. She talked before Congress several times.

'No matter what'

Despite the increased incidence of domestic human trafficking, foreign nationals still fall victim at a disproportionate rate, according to Juliane Ramic of the Nationalities Service Center.

One such victim, a 28-year-old Ecuadorian native forced to sell sex at a brothel in Norristown, testified under the pseudonym "Yadira."

"It's very difficult to understand why would a person do this, but when it happens and your children are involved any woman will do what they have to do to keep their children safe — no matter what," she said, adding that the traffickers threatened to harm her 6-year-old daughter.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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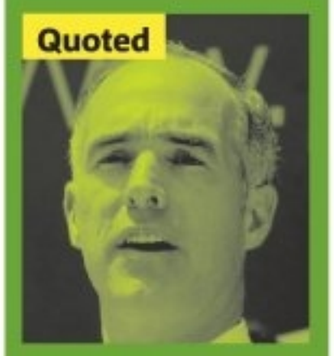
Correction

A headline on the front page of yesterday's editions misidentified the owner of the warehouse where a Mummers' organization housed its props. The actual owner is Joseph Sigismondi.
METRO

Quoted



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Fireworks for New Year's Eve planned

PHILADELPHIA. Mayor Michael Nutter yesterday announced SugarHouse's annual New Year's Eve fireworks, which will launch from barges in the middle of the Delaware River at 6 p.m. and midnight Dec. 31.

"The annual New Year's Eve fireworks at Penn's Landing brings residents, visitors and families from around the region to our growing, thriving waterfront," Nutter said in a statement. Spectators will be able to view the show and hear its synchronized soundtrack from both sides of the river.

Nutter said the celebration has been extended into Philly New Year's Week, which will run from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1 and include specials and parties at local hotels, restaurants and attractions like the Penn's Landing's River Rink.
METRO/AW

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Over the Delaware River

Navy SEAL killed from western Pa.

PENNSYLVANIA. The U.S. Navy SEAL killed in Sunday's rescue mission in Afghanistan that freed an American doctor kidnapped by the Taliban was from outside Pittsburgh, the Defense Department said.

Petty Officer 1st Class Nicolas Checque, 28, was from Monroeville. He died of combat-related injuries, according to a statement that gave no further details. He was

assigned to an East Coast-based Naval Special Warfare unit.

Dr. Dilip Joseph, the U.S. citizen rescued on Sunday, was abducted on Wednesday in the Sarobi district of Afghanistan's Kabul province, according to NATO-led forces. REUTERS

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In the news

West Coast fugitive caught in Kensington

PHILADELPHIA. A California fugitive has been arrested in Kensington thanks to an anonymous tip, federal authorities said.

The FBI took Shauntae Edmond Gray into custody yesterday at an apartment on Hart Lane.

Authorities said Gray fled Sacramento, Calif., in September 2010 after he and his girlfriend were accused of abusing their two children. An arrest warrant for Gray was issued in January 2011.

Authorities said they received an anonymous call from someone who recognized Gray after seeing his photo on the FBI's website.

The children, 5-year-old Anageon Bey-Gray and 3-year-old Zahir Bey-Gray, were safely recovered.

METRO/SDL

'War still going on' over future of Assumption

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RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ The church needs at least $5 million in renovations, according to previous estimates.

Neighbors of an iconic Spring Garden Street church got the building yet another a reprieve yesterday as a city agency ruled in favor of a last-minute petition to prevent its demolition.

The decision by the city's Licenses and Inspections Review Board temporarily postpones the wrecking ball for Church of the Assumption, located near 12th and Spring Garden, by owner John Wei, who obtained a demolition permit from Licenses and Inspections last week. The board has scheduled a Jan. 8 hearing on the merits of the demolition permit. Members of the Callowhill Neighborhood Association say that permit should be invalidated because it was granted to a previous owner, but Wei and the city claim the permit should be upheld.

"We won the first battle, the war is still going on," attorney Sam Stretton, who represents the neighbors, said following the ruling. "Having been in a lot of legal wars it's the final one that counts, but at least we get to fight another day."

Wei said when he purchased the 164-year-old property in July his initial plan was to preserve the church, but the city has forced him to stabilize it — estimated at a cost of more than $1 million by the neighborhood group — or tear it down. The Historical Commission gave the previous owner, nonprofit organization Siloam, the green light to demolish the building because it determined that reuse of the building was not feasible.

Avoid falling church steeples

One question raised during yesterday's review remains cloudy: If someone were injured by the building, which has code violations, before the January hearing, who would be liable?

Sam Stretton, the attorney representing the Callowhill Neighborhood Association, said the board's ruling would exempt the owner, but attorney Andrew Ross from the city's Law Department disagrees.

"I don't believe that a decision by the judicial body shields anybody from liability," Ross said after the ruling.

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Twitter adds photo tools to challenge Instagram

Twitter unveiled tools to adjust the color, size and style of photos uploaded via applications for Apple iPhones and Android phones, as the social-media site adds features to compete with Facebook's Instagram.

The photo filters, developed in partnership with software maker Aviary Inc., are part of an update to the mobile apps made available yesterday, San Francisco-based Twitter said in a blog post.

Twitter is letting users add pictures, video and audio to their postings as it steps up competition with Facebook, which bought photo-sharing service Instagram earlier this year. Last week, Instagram disabled a feature called Twitter Cards for showcasing photos and other media. The move was seen as a step that better prepares Instagram for generating revenue from its own services by driving traffic to its website.

Twitter's updated photo-enhancing apps will probably bring more exposure to Aviary, a New York-based startup with backing from Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos and LinkedIn Corp. co-founder Reid Hoffman. **BLOOMBERG**

▶ Twitter's filters mimic the features that have defined Instagram.

Zuckerberg saw the importance

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg similarly argued for the importance of photo-sharing when he shocked Silicon Valley earlier this year by making an offer to Instagram valued at the time at $1 billion.

Twitter's new photo effects will be incorporated as part of an update to the Twitter's iPhone and Android apps, available beginning Monday, the company said. **REUTERS**

METRO WORLD NEWS

In the news

Rich-case scenario: $300,000 iPhone case

The price of the world's most expensive iPhone 5 case is $300,000. That's for the unique "Lotus" (phone not included) unveiled in November by Mischa Barton.

Sublime or ridiculous, the "Lotus" — crafted from rose gold, pink and white diamonds and the finest Italian leather — sits majestically at the top of an industry. Mike Morgan, senior analyst for mobile devices at ABI research, believes that "it's plausible to say that $600 million worth of iPhone cases for Q4 will be sold globally because they're attached to the biggest device magnet on the planet."

The reason behind this market's growth is obvious: "Smartphones are taking over from feature phones and have a higher attach rate," says Morgan.

That's why owners are more willing to invest in accessorizing and personalizing their device, with Mischa being the latest celebrity to join the fashionable tech-cessories fold, which includes Versace, Mulberry, Marc by Marc Jacobs and even the traditional stationers Smythson, to rattle off a few. **MWN/RICHARD PECKETT**

$6.7B
Estimated value of the smartphone accessories industry for 2012

▶ Pink and white diamonds on the Lotus case.

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In the news

Delta buys 49% Virgin Atlantic Stake for NYC-UK service

ATLANTA/LONDON. Delta Air Lines agreed to buy a 49 percent stake in Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airways for $360 million to boost its share of the lucrative trans-Atlantic travel market. The carriers will begin a joint venture on 31 daily round-trip flights between North America and the U.K. as they use Virgin Atlantic's base at London's Heathrow airport, Europe's busiest, according to a statement today. The Virgin Atlantic stake has been held by Singapore Airlines since 1999. **BLOOMBERG**

Throngs in Michigan protest union dues: 'There Will Be Blood'

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Union members from around the country rallied at the Michigan State Capitol to protest a vote on Right-to-Work legislation yesterday in Lansing.

Michigan lawmakers approved bills to prohibit mandatory union dues in workplaces as thousands of chanting protesters thronged the Lansing Capitol.

"This is the day when Michigan freed its workers," Representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons, an Alto Republican, said today during debate on two bills, one for public employees and another for private ones.

If Republican Governor Rick Snyder signs the so-called Right-to-Work measures as promised, Michigan would become the 24th state to enact such legislation, and the second this year after Indiana. The change would be a practical and symbolic rout in a stronghold of organized labor in the U.S., and opponents said it presaged political warfare.

"There will be blood," Representative Douglas Geiss, a Democrat from Taylor, said in debate.

Labor supporters converged on the statehouse as lawmakers debated the measures for the state that's home to the United Auto Workers and the three largest U.S. automakers. **BLOOMBERG**

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Democrats failed to strip from bills appropriations to administer the measures. This shields the laws from repeal through public referendum.

'Civil war'

Bill Bagwell, a 55-year-old UAW member from Westland, said the measure would create friction at his General Motors plant in Ypsilanti. Members who pay union dues would detest those who enjoy the benefits of the contract but don't contribute, he said.

"It'll create civil war," Bagwell said.

Officials spent days gearing up for crowds brought out by the legislature's sudden action last week to give initial approval to the anti-dues bills, which exclude police and firefighters.

The crowd numbered more than 10,000, according to State Police Inspector Gene Adamczyk, with more buses still arriving. **BLOOMBERG**

Cayman Island police arrest premier over credit card use

Cayman Islands Premier McKeeva Bush was arrested for misuse of a government credit card and importing explosive substances, the Caribbean country's police said.

Bush, 57, was taken into custody at 7 a.m. today at his home in West Bay, according to a statement e-mailed by the police. The premier, who took office in 2009 and has been in the legislature since 1984, is known in the assembly as the "Father of the House," according to his official biography.

Officials with the ruling United Democratic Party are meeting to determine how the government will proceed, the Cayman Compass newspaper reported on its website, citing sources it didn't name. Deputy Premier Julianna O'Connor-Connolly would serve in Bush's place. **BLOOMBERG**

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Yahoo CEO unveils overhaul of e-mail

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mayer

Yahoo rolled out new versions of its popular Web e-mail on Tuesday, the first major product makeover since Chief Executive Marissa Mayer took the helm of the struggling Internet company five months ago.

Yahoo released new versions of its Yahoo Mail product for smartphones and tablets — in keeping with Mayer's focus on mobile devices — and a revamped version of its Web-based mail product for PC users that cuts out ancillary features and that the company said delivers faster performance.

Yahoo is the No. 1 Web e-mail product in the United States and No. 3 worldwide, behind Google's Gmail and Microsoft's Hotmail, according to comScore.

But the number of unique users of Yahoo e-mail declined 16 percent in November from a year earlier in the United States and 7 percent worldwide, according to comScore.

Analysts say the decline owes partly to a younger generation of Internet users who prefer to communicate with text messages on their phones rather than e-mail.

Mayer, a former Google executive who is widely admired in Silicon Valley for her Web-product savvy, is moving to revitalize Yahoo's various Web products and reverse years of declining revenue.

She has said her top priority is to create a coherent mobile strategy for Yahoo and that she intends for at least half of the company's technical workforce to be working on mobile products.

As part of yesterday's announcement, Yahoo unveiled an update to its mobile email app for smartphones based on the Android operating system, as well as Yahoo's first standalone app for Apple's iPhone.

Yahoo also released a version designed for tablets and PCs based on Microsoft's new Windows 8 operating system.

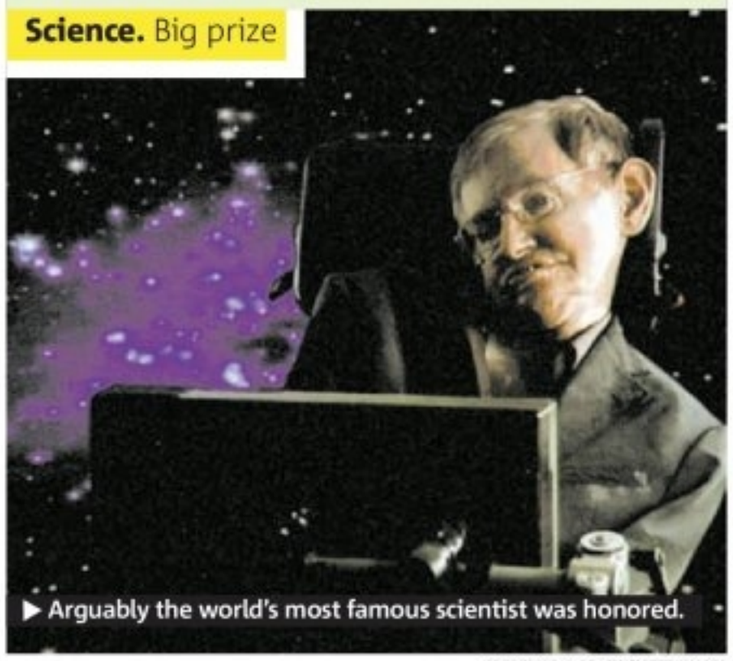
Vivek Sharma, General Manager of Yahoo Mail & Messenger, said the group of new mobile apps was part of Yahoo's goal of ensuring that its products are available across all major mobile platforms. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"You told us loud and clear that you wanted fewer distractions when it comes to e-mail. You want to quickly log in, communicate and get on with your day."

MAYER IN A POST ON YAHOO'S OFFICIAL BLOG

Science. Big prize



▶ Arguably the world's most famous scientist was honored.

FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

Hawking, CERN win $3M prize

Stephen Hawking, the British cosmologist who urged people to "be curious" at the Paralympics opening ceremony, has landed the richest prize in science for his work on how black holes emit radiation. Hawking won $3 million from Russian Internet entrepreneur Yuri Milner, who set up his prize this year to address what he regards as a lack of recognition in the modern world for leading scientists.
Along with Hawking, a second $3 million award has gone to the scientists behind the discovery this year of a new subatomic particle that behaves like the theoretical Higgs boson. REUTERS

In the news

New stretchy electronics inspired by nature

Scientists in Switzerland have come up with a material mimicking the way tendons connect to bones, which could speed the development of stretchy, wearable electronic devices.

The stretchable electronics industry is in its infancy, but devices that are able to flex without breaking could revolutionize devices from smartphones and solar cells to medical implants.

But while circuits and wiring are quite happy on rigid surfaces like those in a tablet computer, they break easily when combined with materials that stretch.

"You have two materials with very different mechanical properties," said Andre Studart, a researcher at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, said. "The challenge is to bridge these different properties." **REUTERS**

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In the news

Boehner stands firm but hopeful on 'fiscal cliff'

WASHINGTON. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner offered no concrete signs of progress yesterday on the "fiscal cliff" talks but said he remained hopeful that both sides would reach an agreement by the end-of-year deadline.

Amid signs that the White House and Boehner's office are making headway in the talks, Boehner repeated his now-familiar call for President Barack Obama to offer a new proposal to avert the automatic steep tax hikes and spending cuts set for the end of the year unless Congress intervenes.

"I'm an optimist. I'm hopeful we can reach an agreement," Boehner said on the House floor.

While Boehner demanded more specific spending cuts from Obama, White House spokesman Jay Carney said the administration had submitted extensive proposals to reduce spending but Republicans had not offered specifics on increasing revenues.

"There is a deal out there that's possible," Carney told reporters. It could include reduced spending, more revenues and tax reform as long as Republicans accepted higher tax rates on the wealthiest Americans, he said.

"We do believe the parameters of a compromise are pretty clear," Carney said.

The pace of staff-level talks has quickened since Boehner met on Sunday with Obama at the White House in a meeting that the Republican described as "nice" and "cordial."

But Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid said it would be difficult to reach an agreement before Christmas.

REUTERS

HSBC to pay $1.9 billion US fine in money-laundering case

HSBC Holdings agreed to pay a record $1.92 billion in fines to U.S. authorities for allowing itself to be used to launder a river of drug money flowing out of Mexico and other banking lapses.

Mexico's Sinaloa cartel and Colombia's Norte del Valle cartel between them laundered $881 million through HSBC and a Mexican unit, the U.S. Justice Department said yesterday.

In a deferred prosecution agreement with the Justice Department, the bank acknowledged that it failed to maintain an effective program against money laundering and failed to conduct basic due diligence on some of its account holders.

Under the agreement, which was reported by Reuters last week, the bank agreed to take steps to fix the problems, forfeit $1.256 billion and retain a compliance monitor. The bank also agreed to pay $665 million in civil penalties to regulators including to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve, and the Treasury Department.

"We accept responsibility for our past mistakes. We have said we are profoundly sorry for them, and we do so again. The HSBC of today is a fundamentally different organization from the one that made those mistakes," HSBC Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver said.

REUTERS

A place to launder

Despite the known risks of doing business in Mexico, the bank put the country in its lowest risk category, which excluded $670 billion in transactions from the monitoring systems, according to the documents.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ HSBC told investors it had set aside $1.5 billion to cover fines or penalties and warned that costs could be significantly higher.

Fines to fix the problems

Under the agreement, which was reported by Reuters last week, the bank agreed to take steps to fix the problems:

$1.256B
Will be forfeited by HSBC, and the bank will retain a compliance monitor

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In civil penalties to regulators including to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Fed, and the Treasury

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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Kirstie Alley is packing heat, Niall Horan could use some excitement, Mark Ruffalo is looking forward to getting back to work and Albert Brooks is discovering the power of silence.

@kirstiealley
Dear PA who rang the gate with a script at 3 AM..notice mailbox to the left of driveway...NOTICE the actress with a Glock in upstairs window

@NiallOfficial
Sittin at home! Bored t death!

@Mruff221
I got a text from Joss Whedon the other day. Sounds like he is writing some very interesting stuff for Banner and his alter ego The Hulk.

@AlbertBrooks
By not tweeting I have gained substantially more followers.

Kirstie Alley

A look back: Celebrity engagements of 2012

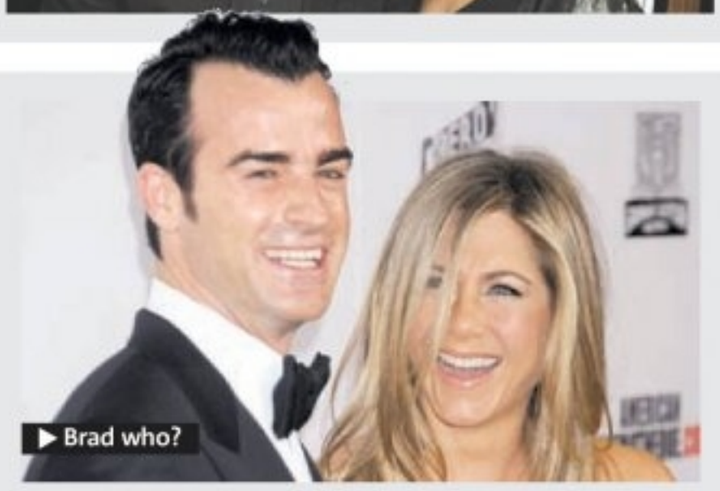
Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

The deets: Pitt proposed to Jolie, his longtime girlfriend with whom he has six children, in April with a $500,000, 16-carat rock. "It seems to mean more and more to our kids," he says about finally tying the knot, to Us Weekly.
Wedding date: Ha. Like they'd tell us.

▶ The soon-to-be Mr. and Mrs. Pitt have six kids.

Evan Rachel Wood and Jamie Bell

The deets: The two got engaged in January. They met while starring in a Green Day music video in 2005; they broke up when she moved on with Marilyn Manson and reconnected when her engagement to the goth rocker ended in 2010.
Wedding date: Already happened! They were married on Halloween in California. "It was a small ceremony with close family and friends," said her rep in a statement.



▶ Brad who?

Justin Theroux and Jennifer Aniston

The deets: The two actors, who met on the set of "Wanderlust," got engaged in New York City on Aug. 10. Theroux proposed with an 8-carat ring, worth an estimated $500,000.
Wedding date: Again, we'll never know until they sell their photos to the magazine of their choice.

Justin Mikita and Jesse Tyler Ferguson

The deets: "Modern Family" star Jesse Tyler Ferguson and his lawyer fiance Justin Mikita got engaged in July at Sofia Vergara's Mexican birthday party. The two broke the news in September in a video for Tie the Knot, an organization the couple launched to support marriage equality.
Wedding date: Ferguson told E! they will be getting married in 2013. "I did go get a Martha Stewart Weddings magazine, but it's really a lot of over-the-top stuff," he said.

Hilaria Thomas and Alec Baldwin

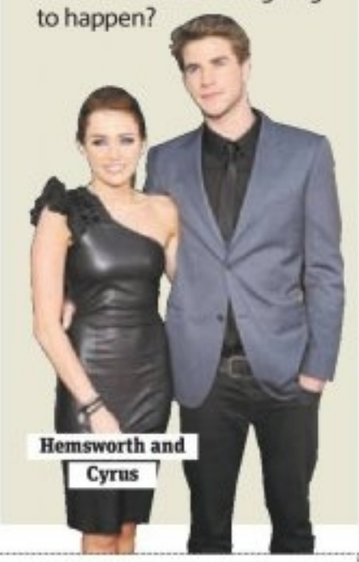
The deets: The two lovebirds got engaged in April, less than a year after they first met.
Wedding date: It already happened (Baldwin moves fast). The two were wed in June in New York City.

Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger

The deets: Oh, Canada! The two got engaged in August, surprising a lot of fans (and gossip columnists) who didn't even know they were dating. "Things just clicked real quick," Kroeger, the lead singer of Nickleback, told a radio station about Lavigne.
Wedding date: I'm kind of getting the vibe they'll skip the wedding and just go straight to procreating Canadian royalty.

Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus

The deets: They might be young (he's 22, she's 20) but that doesn't mean they won't last forever (actually, yes, yes it does). The "Hunger Games" actor proposed to Cyrus in May, three years after they started dating, with a 3.5-carat diamond ring.
Wedding date: Eh, you REALLY think this one is going to happen?



Hemsworth and Cyrus

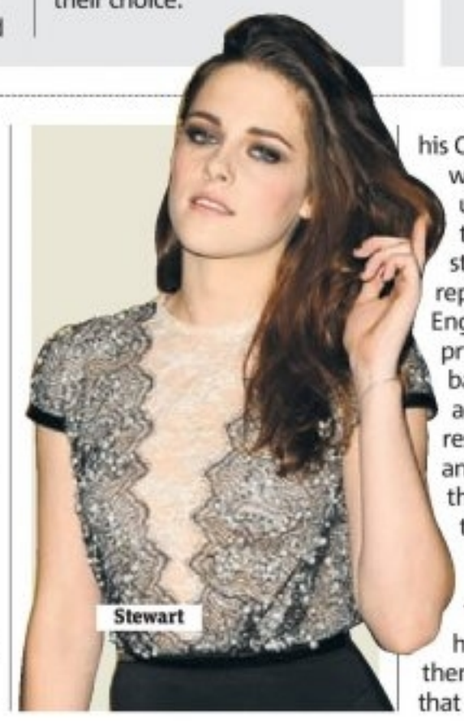
Talking points

Stewart is cool with getting naked, OK?

Kristen Stewart is sick and tired of all the attention her nude scenes in "On the Road" are getting. "I do hate also when people go, 'Oh wow, great performance. So brave,'" she tells the Huffington Post. "Because I'm naked? That's annoying. But at the same time, if that's what they're focusing on, then 'On the Road' probably isn't for them anyway." Stewart is a diehard fan of the **Jack Kerouac** novel on which the film is based, which meant she had no hesitation about doing the more revealing scenes. "This book celebrates being alive and it celebrates being human, and if you want to cover up and deny any aspect of that, you are denying the spirit of the book," she says.

One Direction isn't too keen on Swift's private jet

Taylor Swift's fledgling romance with **Harry Styles** appears to already be causing strife among his One Direction bandmates. So what's got them all worked up? Travel arrangements, it turns out. After the band's stay in New York, Styles reportedly headed back to England with Swift on her private jet while the rest of the band traveled separately, according to E! News. "The rest of the band were a bit annoyed about the whole thing," a source says. "They took a Virgin commercial flight and there were tons of spare seats on the jet. They had just finished a huge concert in N.Y. and all of them were on a high. The fact that he left them to travel solo irritated them a bit."



Stewart

Cruise's Christmas includes all the kids

Tom Cruise is spending Christmas with the kids, he tells People magazine. "We have got lots of very special things planned," Cruise said while at the London premiere of "Jack Reacher," his first public appearance since his divorce from **Katie Holmes**. Those special plans involve his children **Bella**, 20, and **Connor**, 17, plus **Suri**, the 6-year-old daughter he shares with Holmes. "We are all going to be together."

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'Tis the season for film premieres

1: Rosamund Pike and **Tom Cruise** posed on the red carpet at the world premiere of their new film, "Jack Reacher," on Monday in London.

2: Ewan McGregor and **Naomi Watts** attended the Los Angeles premiere of their latest flick, "The Impossible," on Monday in Hollywood.

3: Luciana Baroso and husband **Matt Damon** were at the premiere of Damon's new film, "Promised Land," on Thursday in Los Angeles.

4: Director **Kathryn Bigelow** was with **Jessica Chastain** at the premiere of "Zero Dark Thirty" on Monday in Hollywood.

5: Liv Tyler wowed at the New York premiere of "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" on Thursday in New York City.

1: CLAIRE GREENWAY/GETTY IMAGES
2: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES
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Talking in your sleep? There's an app for that

The average person will spend about a third of his or her life asleep. And while researchers continue to look for answers as to just why it is we sleep, a lot of questions still remain unanswered. Why do we dream? What do dreams actually mean? And why do we talk in our sleep?

As with most predicaments these days, there's an app for it.

It's called Sleep Talk Recorder and it records everything you say while you snooze. The app initially launched in Sweden in 2010 and has racked up almost 2 million downloads to date. The Sleep Talk Recorder has since trickled its way into the United States and now the folks behind the app are hoping to make a documentary out of the stories that surface from its users.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Sleep Talk Recorder is available for both Android and iOS devices. It's free for Android and 99 cents for iOS.

"I was chatting with a friend ... about a weird dream I had just had," says Martin Lindau, co-founder of Mad In Sweden, the company behind the app. "We both thought, 'Well, there must be a way to use your phone to record what you say in your sleep.'"

The app only records sounds — usually in short, five-second integrals — so there's no blank recording. Once you wake up, you can listen to the snippets you said during the night and share them to the main feed for other users to see.

The main focus of the documentary, Lindau says, is to capture stories where the app has inspired or helped someone. He cites a recent case in New York.

"This man was having sleeping problems. Every night, his dog ... would lick his face and wake him up. He tried taking it outside, feeding it — nothing," he said. "He couldn't figure out why he kept waking him up."

Lindau says the man tried the app and discovered the next morning that he was the problem. During the night, he made a series of unpleasant, growl-like snores — which is likely what caused his dog to wake him up.

"The dog was just trying to take care of his owner!" Lindau says. "Those are the kind of stories we're curious to find."

The documentary is still in its early phases, though Lindau is hoping for a December 2013 completion date.

ERIC LARSON FOR Mashable
The Social Media Guide

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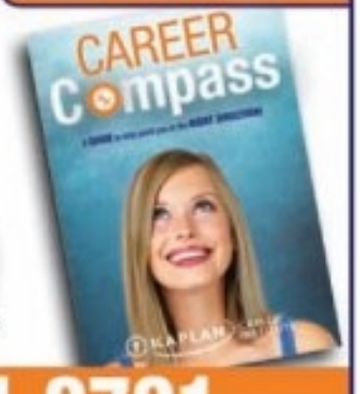

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▶ Harmless visitor or desperate elf in search of a labor force? Scab needs some new helpers in "ELFuego."

Give a little bit

For each production, BCKSEET teams up with a community organization to raise awareness and funds for worthy causes. This time, they'll donate $1 of every full-priced admission ticket to their partner for "ELFuego," the Philadelphia Unemployment Project. During the show's opening week, audience members are invited to bring a new toy for the organization's toy drive.

As her name might suggest, Scab (Sarah Doherty) is not your typical yes-man elf. Behind her rosy cheeks and candy cane-striped socks, the plucky star of "ELFuego" — BCKSEET Production's new holiday musical — walks that thin, familiar line between motivated go-getter and Christmas-crazed sociopath.

"She comes across as really sweet at first, which makes her extra scary," Kate Brennan, BCKSEET artistic director and writer, admits about Scab. "It doesn't really prepare you for the Tasers and the roofies."

Then again, nothing about "ELFuego" really follows the holiday musical rubric. The story begins with a massive fire in the North Pole, where unsafe conditions prevented many of the elves from escaping their workshops. While her colleagues take to the picket line, Scab comes up with another idea: Recruiting — or, if necessary, drugging and kidnapping — unemployed humans to help churn out the all-important toys.

"It's a comedy, of course, and it's dark — but it's also a reclaiming of the season."
BRENNAN

Although Santa is never identified as the tyrant behind the assembly lines, there is a dark force haunting this North Pole, where free speech is unheard of (to their dismay, the elves are only able to speak in PG-rated rhymes) and Easy-Bake Ovens are valued more than lives.

"It's a comedy, of course, and it's dark — but it's also a reclaiming of the season," says Brennan. "There's the pressure of spending money during the holidays, of being in a romantic relationship, of gaining weight — there's all this stress about what's supposed to be a celebration."

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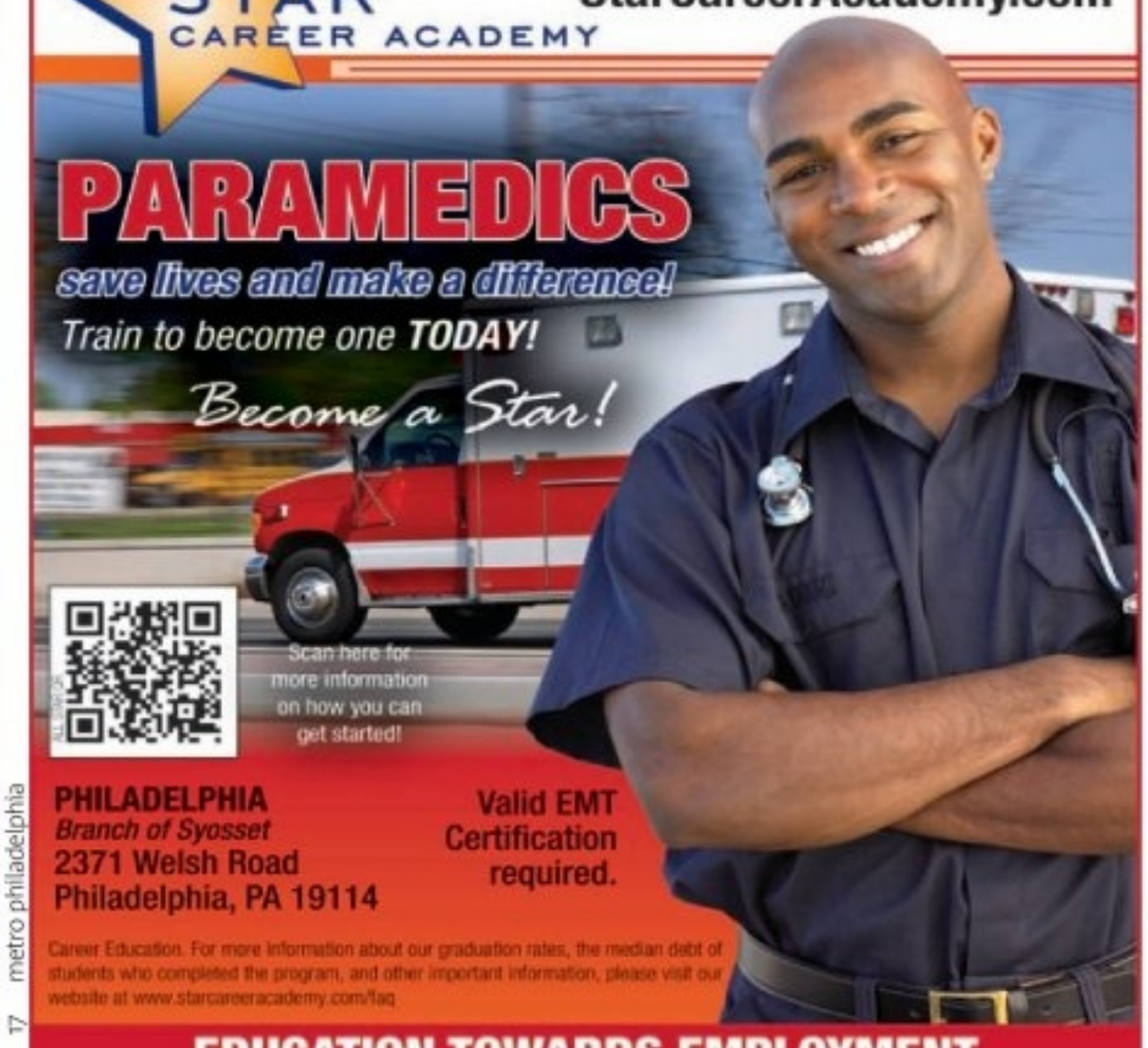

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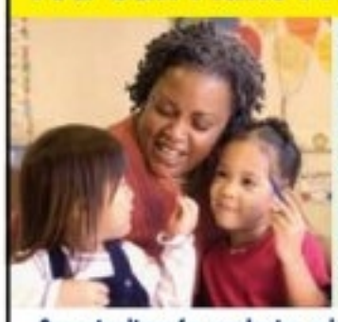

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Bruno Mars gets 'Unorthodox'

- His new album almost wasn't, thanks to a scary case of writer's block
- Inspired again, the singer is following up his wildly successful debut

Bruno Mars is wearing a mostly unbuttoned shirt and speaking slowly while stirring milk into a cup of coffee and settling into a huge, brown leather couch.

Relaxed, cool and confident — that's how he appears talking about his new album, "Unorthodox Jukebox." And he probably is, at least today. But that's not how the 27-year-old singer felt when he started on the album, the successor to his hugely successful 2010 debut "Doo-Wops & Hooligans."

"I went through writer's block — two months of being uninspired. It was just weeks and weeks of going back into the studio and trying to write something that means something. ... I was afraid I'd never be able to write anything ever again," says the singer.

Mars says he thinks it was the many months that he spent touring "Doo-Wops" that made it difficult to get back into songwriting mode. "You have such a repetitive life on tour, traveling and singing the same songs over and over again," he says.

As for the title, "Unorthodox Jukebox" speaks to the singer's eclectic sound — which is a hit with fans, if not label execs.

"The way I write music and all the music that I enjoy is what makes me unorthodox," says Mars. "To the suits, that's a bad thing, because they have to think about marketing and what radio station will play this song and who will listen to it. I never understood [that]. If it's good music, maybe I can get them all! So, I guess 'Unorthodox Jukebox' is my statement of freedom."

JAMES MOONEY

▶ Bruno Mars is back after some serious writer's block.

Quoted

"I was afraid I'd never be able to write anything ever again." MARS

NINA ETTRUP
METRO WORLD NEWS

Q&A: Bruno's other jukebox

If we were in a bar, what three songs would you play?
Right now? The way I'm feeling right now? We're in a bar. Is it nighttime?

Yes. It's around 10 p.m. and we've had three beers.
I'd play Zeppelin, "Whole Lotta Love" to start the s— off. And then I would play "I'm Too Sexy" by Right Said Fred. Why not? We've had three beers and I'm hitting on you. I'm gonna dance, too. And the third one, to really freak and weird the people out is Celine Dion, "My Heart Will Go On." Just to really bum out the whole bar. But I'd sing along.

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LOCAL ALBUMS
FOR YOUR HOLIDAY WISH LIST

The only surprise better than opening a gift and finding music inside is finding local music inside ◆ There were many noteworthy releases this year by Philly bands and artists, but here are five that should top your list

▶ Timothy Showalter

Strand of Oaks
'Dark Shores
This project helmed by singer-songwriter Timothy Showalter recorded its newest album with indie-rock hero John Vanderslice. It's somewhat of a sci-fi concept album about being lost, lonely and unloved in outer space, but the electro-futuristic zips and pings are kept to a minimum so as not to conceal the strong folk and country roots. There are plenty of rocking moments to accompany the spaceships and sadness, too.

Meek Mill
'Dreams & Nightmares'
After years of hustling on the free mixtape circuit, the North Philly rapper finally released his official debut this year. With guest spots by Mary J. Blige, John Legend and Drake, Mill is clearly making a pop push, but it seems to be working for him. His barking style isn't as enraged as on his early tapes, but an honest roughness that's rare nowadays for major-label rap remains. With his seemingly limitless creativity and technical prowess, next year could be even bigger.

Various Artists
'Imaginational Anthems Volume 5'
OK, this compilation spotlighting the work of 13 acoustic guitarists only features two local pickers, and one of them recently moved away. But it still counts. It's a must-have for guitar lovers.

Sounds of Liberation
'Sounds of Liberation'
Philly jazz musician Byard Lancaster died from cancer in August. The saxophonist, who played with jazz greats like Sunny Murray and Sun Ra, left behind several spectacular recordings. Among them is this album, which was reissued in 2010. Not new, but essential.

Hop Along
'Get Disowned'
The debut album by these rockers has been a long time in the making. The current lineup has been together for almost three years, but frontwoman Frances Quinlan has been making music as Hop Along for much longer. Her singing is just as jagged and gorgeous as her guitar playing, and both come alive on the standout track "Tibetan Pop Stars."

ELLIOTT SHARP
letters@metro.us

TV watch list

ABC/ DONNA SVENNEVIK

▶ Gabby Douglas is one of Barbara Walters' 10 most fascinating people of 2012.

'The 10 Most Fascinating People of 2012'
SPECIAL. Barbara Walters sits down with the year's headline-makers, from Chris Christie to Gabby Douglas to "Fifty Shades of Grey" author E.L. James, which should make for some delightfully awkward conversation. **9:30 p.m., ABC**

'12-12-12: The Concert for Sandy Relief'
SPECIAL. Top-flight entertainers including Bruce Springsteen, the Rolling Stones, Bon Jovi, Kanye West and Alicia Keys perform in a fundraising effort to help those affected by Hurricane Sandy. **7:30 p.m., check listings at www.121212concert.org/broadcast**

'Amish Mafia'
REALITY. Taking neighborhood watch to a whole new level, the men of Lancaster, Pa., who use unconventional measures to protect their Amish community are profiled in this questionable series — since when do the Amish drive cars, anyway? **Series premiere, 9 p.m., Discovery**

'Arrow'
DRAMA. Oliver throws a Christmas party, but not everyone's in the mood to celebrate. Perhaps a flash of those abs could convince them otherwise? **8 p.m., The CW** ◆ AMBER RAY

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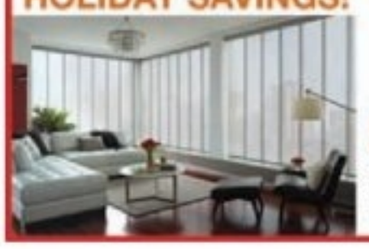
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Style Q&A

Low heels for tall girls

Question: "I like wearing heels but am tired of towering over everyone all the time. Can you recommend any Michelle Obama-style pumps that are low but fashionable?" – LISA

1 **Phillip Lim Ava leather pumps, $450,** www.netaporter.com

2 **Zara printed medium heel shoe, $80,** www.zara.com

3 **Mulberry patent leather kitten heels, $485,** www.mytheresa.com

4 **J.Crew Valentina pump, $238,** www.jcrew.com

KENYA HUNT/MWN

Trending

It's suddenly cool to wear wonky logos

No one ever wanted to be the kid in school caught wearing the counterfeit bag with the interlocked LV's and CC's facing the wrong direction. But now, it's suddenly cool to wear a blatantly wrong logo, as long as it's styled with some irony. These cheeky tees by new labels Brian Lichtenberg and C.O.I. (Conflict of Interest) look like they fell off the back of an illegally parked truck in Chinatown, on purpose. And that's what makes them so fun.

KENYA HUNT/MWN

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A146	Elizabeth Benjamin	R601	Melendez, Edred	T133	Rodriguez, Phillup A
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▶ Dr. Anderson says that Seasonal Affective Disorder gets better with exposure to natural sunlight.

Seasonal Affective Disorder: It's the real deal

To some, it's a myth; to others, it's an annual plight. Seasonal Affective Disorder is not yet fully understood — but as days grow shorter, sufferers report symptoms like less energy, sleepiness, increased appetite and sadness. Metro asked psychologist Dr. Janis Anderson, the director of Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital's Seasonal Affective Disorders Clinic, for some insight into this peculiar problem.

What is Seasonal Affective Disorder?
Seasonal Affective Disorder is a form of major depression. The timing is different, but the presentation is the same. Major depression is depression lasting longer than two weeks that interferes with normal life.

Isn't S.A.D. just a myth?
We've seen brain scans and studies that have shown that Seasonal Affective Disorder fits the major depression profile. There are physiological changes that are the same.

Does our vitamin D production have something to do with it?
Some studies have looked into that, and there's some speculation. But there is no specific evidence. The evidence points to daylight hitting the retina, which in turn affects parts of the brain that respond to light, even in blind people. Mammals [use an] internal calendar.

Who gets S.A.D. more, men or women?
Women. We just don't know why. It's true that in general women have more depression. But it's certainly true of S.A.D.

Do we know what causes it?
There were studies done in Alaska and Siberia that compared natives who still lived a traditional life with those who led modern city lives. The rates of S.A.D. were higher in the people who lived modern lives. We don't know why. It's one of those intriguing mysteries.

Is it preventable?
Move to Hawaii! Really, it's sensitive to geographical location. The further from the equator, the more incidences we see.

How can it be treated?
We see improved function with more light exposure. Walking in daylight without sunglasses, even if it's cloudy, for 40 minutes a day, helps — particularly in the early morning hours.

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

Health notes

Scary stat

Just more than one-half of Southeastern Pennsylvania adults who smoke cigarettes (50.9 percent) have high levels of stress compared with more than one-third of adults (34.2 percent) who do not smoke cigarettes.

Source: The Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Health Survey

ZOONAR

▶ Smokers are more stressed, says a new survey.

Worst cookbooks

▶ **The Unofficial Downton Abbey Cookbook:** The Squab with Fig Foie Gras has more cholesterol than 10 Big Macs.
▶ **Emeril's Kicked-Up Sandwiches:** The Monte Cristo sandwich contains as much sodium as half a medium Papa John's pepperoni pizza.
▶ **Rachael Ray's My Year in Meals:** One serving of Hearty Mac & Cheese with Squash & Sausage has about as much saturated fat as a package of bacon.
▶ **Fifty Shades of Chicken:** Four Bacon-Bound Wings have more cholesterol than a strip steak.
▶ **Southern Living: The Official SEC Tailgating Cookbook:** The Sausage-Hash Brown Breakfast Casserole has more cholesterol than eight Cinnabon Classics.

Source: Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine

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Letters

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Fewer wars, fewer wounded to care for in the aftermath

Over the next 50 or 60 years, American taxpayers will be paying for the disabled veterans of past military actions. Let's hope we have no more.

It has been my own personal observation that when the central government is confronted with a major national security issue, it spasmodically reacts by increasing the size of the military — both head count and material. During these spasmodic periods, personnel are recruited who are more susceptible to disabilities than the norm.

The government must address the intake side of the equation, if it is to be successful in reducing the number of the disabled in the future.

RETIRED PFC. ROBERT A KEHL

Americans: Just like the Whos, but with less crazy hair

RE: "THE BEST HOLIDAY MOVIE? 'MIRACLE ON CAPITOL HILL'" (METRO, DEC. 11) Over the past few days, I have read letters stating that people's holiday wishes include politicians sitting down together, but Boehner (and the GOP) consistently act like the Grinch. You see, all the Whos in Whoville love their socialist presents from big government that create their holiday we call retirement. But the Grinch hates government and socialism. To him, nothing's funny, especially the poor, ill and elderly getting his money. So he got an awful idea that he was quite fond of, to create a cliff made of tax cuts and sequestration to throw their presents off of. But the cliff wasn't too tall, the Whos not too scared, to stand up and fight, their retirement to spare. So to the mayor of Whoville, I say with smile, stand up for our holiday, don't cross the aisle.

COREY SAGENICH, VIA E-MAIL

Israelis claiming land with a deed they wrote

RE: "EU NEEDS TO GET ITS PRIORITIES STRAIGHT" (METRO, DEC. 10) Letter writer Arthur Horn needs to get his historical facts together. The Canaanites were in Jerusalem before the Israelis. This is according to Jewish scriptures. The Romans built great cities out of London and Paris, and the Americas were populated by native people. The Palestinians have been in the so-called promised land for about 2,000 years. The Romans destroyed and sacked the second temple and built the Colosseum with the temple loot. Emperor Titus exiled the Israelis from Palestine in the first century. The world is what it is today, and the Israelis cannot use a book written by their ancestors to justify removing the long-term residents of Palestine because their God promised them a territory occupied by Canaanites, which they had to ethnic cleanse. Almost every nationality would be able to justify moving into another nationality's territory based on historical facts or self-created history if we were to take the Israelis' right to Palestine as a legal precedent to do so.

CARLTON NICKERSON, VIA E-MAIL

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
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Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** You're entering a cycle where many of your hopes and expectations will have excellent chances of success. Operate to the best of your abilities, and luck will fill in the thin spots.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Some beneficial happenings are going on behind the scenes. They may be hidden from your view, but don't worry — some delightful surprises are in the offing.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Friends will start to play more prominent roles in your affairs. As long as you keep them out of areas pertaining to your finances, their input will be positive.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** You're now entering a good cycle for achievement, but you might be the last person to realize this. Don't allow negative thinking to put restrictions on your possibilities.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Some special knowledge you'll gain through a personal experience will be used to your advantage over and over again in the coming weeks. It'll give you the edge you've needed.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** You could be steered toward something that could turn out to be financially beneficial. If you should run into a potential opportunity, check it out.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Some kind of agreement you work out could have a lot of promising potential that, once implemented, will be long-lasting if you make sure it's as good for the others as it is for you.

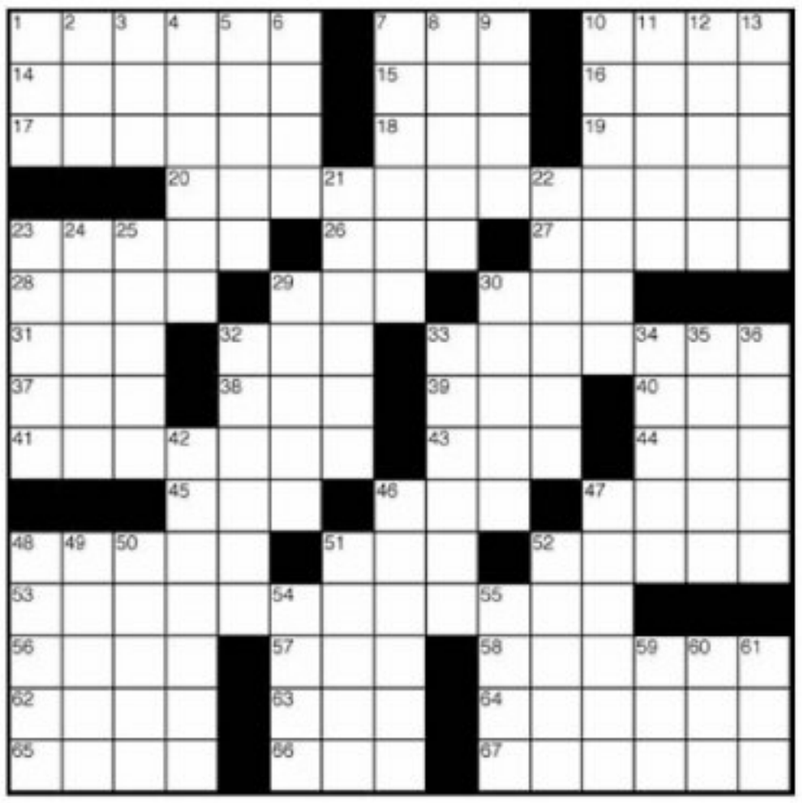
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** An interesting development could occur where your work or career is concerned. What transpires will go a long way toward helping you fulfill an ambitious objective.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** This could be an unusually good day for you to reorganize a situation that is personally important. Adjustments can be made to help you achieve whatever it is you need or want.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Before starting another new endeavor, complete the ones you've already got underway. When you finally finish them, the results will exceed your expectations.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Do not discount any new idea or concept you get, even if some of them are a bit grandiose. You're in a cycle where thinking big could be lucky for you.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Certain of your financial transactions could start to take an upward swing. As long as you don't allow extravagance to rule the roost, profitable results are likely. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**



Across
1 Raised with effort
7 24-hr. teller
10 Jargon
14 Disinclined
15 Glamorous wrap
16 Survey finding
17 Friars' garb
18 College entrance exam
19 Domino dots
20 Subtle intimidation (2 wds.)
23 Michael Caine role
26 "Have you — wool?"
27 Ticket info
28 Mrs. Charles
29 A-Team member (2 wds.)
30 Ltd. relative
31 Cosmic force
32 Brief craze
33 Tease (2 wds.)
37 — take forever!
38 When Paris sizzles
39 Off-rd. truck
40 Pub pint
41 Thick soup
43 La Brea -- pits
44 ER personnel
45 Clark or Orbison
46 Writer John -- Passos
47 A word to kitty
48 One kind of flight
51 Klutz
52 Ballpark figure
53 Rusty-looking plant (2 wds.)
56 Army status
57 Jacques' friend
58 Panoramas
62 Europe-Asia range
63 RMN and HST, once
64 Revises
65 Diamond corner
66 "Quiet!"
67 Medium-sized sofa

Down
1 Nasty laugh
2 Role for Madonna
3 Winter mo.
4 Odd facts
5 Ms. Lauder
6 He loved Lucy
7 Not around
8 Sycophant
9 Marshal Dillon
10 Whim
11 March sign
12 Hindu kingdom
13 Kind of bud
21 Storeroom for food
22 Long for
23 Funny business
24 Very reluctant
25 Bilbo's heir
29 Ahoy, —!
30 Specks
32 Bogart's topper
33 Defer (2 wds.)
34 Silly comedy
35 Humerus neighbors
36 Snug retreats
42 Crease
46 Sweet roll
47 Day's end
48 Cancel a launch
49 Beauty pageant prize
50 Pavlova and Freud
51 Energy
52 Soot
54 Dallas hoopsters, slangily
55 Festive nights
59 Explosive abbr.
60 Lemon cooler
61 NNW opposite

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	4		8					

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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		7		2	9	5		
	9	2	5	1				
	2					6	5	
		3		5		2		
	7	5					1	
				7	5	4	6	
		8	2	4		9		
	4			9	8			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

M	O	B	S		U	R	G	E	D		G	A	U	L
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			R	Y	E		G	E	M	S				
S	T	A	Y	E	D	U	P			T	E	E	N	Y
I	R	A			E	H	S			I	G	L	O	O
M	Y	R	I	A	D	S		T	H	R	O	A	T	Y
B	O	O	S	T			F	R	O		R	E	O	
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				A	C	H	E		W	E	E			
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E	R	L	E		D	I	V	E	R		G	N	A	T
E	L	L	E		A	D	E	L	E		E	R	M	A
R	Y	A	N		R	I	G	I	D		R	E	E	L

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3 THINGS WE SAW

Bell's heroics lead Villanova to 65-61 win in the Holy War ◗ Victory snaps two-game losing streak at Pavilion ◗ Technical fouls called on both schools ◗ Galloway, Jones pace Saint Joseph's in defeat ◗ Here's what we noticed ...

PAIGE OZAROSKI

▶ As expected, the Holy War between St. Joe's and Villanova got chippy at times last night.

1 For whom the Bell tolls. James Bell knocked down the go-ahead 3-pointer and then added a pair of free throws in the waning seconds to propel Villanova past Saint Joseph's, 65-61, at The Pavilion. Devoid of any stars on this year's team, the Wildcats are going to need different players each night. This time, it was Bell. And his clutch shots snapped a maddening two-game losing streak at home.

2 Lived up to the hype. Each team received a technical foul — one on the Villanova bench and one on Hawks forward C.J. Aiken. There were also 31 turnovers and too many deflected passes to count. You know what? That happens in a Big 5 game, especially one of this caliber, in the "Holy War." Down the stretch, it was all about execution for the Wildcats. For the Hawks, not so much.

3 Guards, guards, guards. Langston Galloway (22 points) and Carl Jones (16) combined for 38 points, including eight 3-pointers for Saint Joseph's in the loss. If the Hawks continue to get this kind of strong guard play all season, they're going to win a lot of games. This duo is as good as any in the Atlantic 10. Bell (12 points) and JayVaughn Pinkston (12) led Villanova. ● ANDY JASNER

▶ Carl Jones scored 16 points for Saint Joseph's.

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Celebration causes sore groin for Maclin

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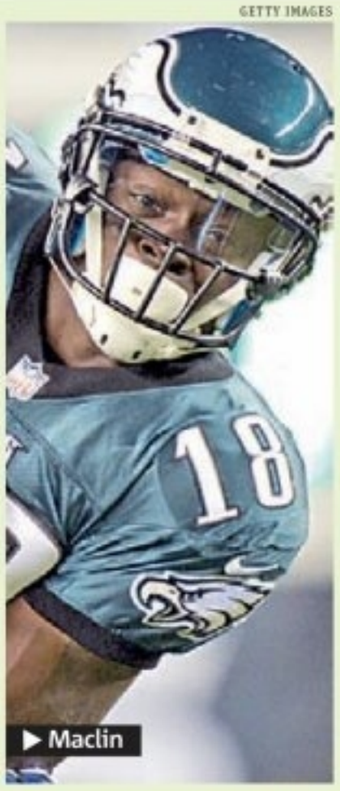

▶ Maclin

After Jeremy Maclin caught the 1-yard, game-winning touchdown last week, he raced up the field and looked for a teammate to chest-bump. One of the first guys he found was Nnamdi Asomugha.

Apparently, Maclin was hurt during the celebration, as he is dealing with a sore groin. Maclin was a limited participant in yesterday's practice, but he expects to play Thursday night.

"My groin is a little sore, but I'll be OK," Maclin said.

And, coming off a Sunday game, the Eagles have only three days to prepare for Cincinnati. That doesn't allow much time for the body to heal.

"It's a little bit of a challenge, obviously. Not getting any days off for your body to regroup," Maclin said. "It is what it is, so you have to double the preparation, try and get as much rest as possible, but understand that you have a game to play on Thursday." METRO/MG

Is pressure on or off defensive line?

Slight technique changes look to improve pass-rush ◗ Cox records sack in first game without Washburn ◗ Team fighting hard to finish

There has been much made in recent days about the Eagles moving on from the attacking, aggressive wide-nine technique. The defensive line appeared to slow it down, choosing to read and react instead of blindly rushing the passer.

It certainly sounds like a drastic change to make on the fly. But several players brushed it off, saying not that much really changed.

"I played like I've been playing since Game 1," said rookie Fletcher Cox, who registered a sack last week. "We're not reading, still attacking, just not playing as much nine technique as we usually did."

Head cases

- **Mike Vick and LeSean McCoy were back at practice yesterday in limited roles.** Both have passed imPACT tests and are in phase five of concussion protocols. They need to be cleared by an independent neurologist before they can return.
- **Brent Celek (concussion) has been ruled out Thursday.** He briefly lost consciousness last week vs. Tampa Bay.

Trent Cole was one of the loudest voices in support of former defensive line coach Jim Washburn when he first arrived. He admitted that new line coach Tommy Brasher is trying to combine two styles. Cole played under Brasher in his rookie season.

"I knew a lot of changes were going [to be made and] that it was going to be different when he first came in. I tried to forewarn all the other guys about how Tommy coaches and it's more, like I said, we're doing read-attack and also we're playing ball."

No matter what scheme or technique is being implemented, everyone on the roster wants to finish the season strong. Players have too much pride in themselves and their (possibly) outgoing coach, Andy Reid.

"There's a lot of things to improve on from last week, so we need to go out there this week, play together as a team, keep improving, keep pushing each other, keep playing for each other and just get the win," said Nick Foles.

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▶ Cox, right, and defensive line mate Cedric Thornton are hoping to rack up more sacks under Tommy Brasher.

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Metro's NFL power rankings | by Mike Greger

1 PATRIOTS (10-3)

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Who didn't see this coming? Tom Brady went on national TV and showed everyone once again why he'll go down as one of the NFL's greatest quarterbacks. Brady also firmly put himself back in the MVP conversation, while Jerod Mayo introduced himself to the world. Watch out.

2 TEXANS (11-2)

That's two clunkers against MVP-caliber quarterbacks. Is this a growing trend in Houston? Or a case of extreme stage fright? We're giving them the benefit of the doubt — for now.

3 BRONCOS (10-3)

Eight straight wins and (assuming they don't start reading their own press clippings) only one potential loss (at Baltimore) left on the schedule.

4 FALCONS (11-2)

Maybe Atlanta was overlooking Carolina, with that playoff rematch vs. Giants on deck. Good teams can't do that. That's a bad loss to a bad, bad Panthers team.

5 49ERS (9-3-1)

Colin Kaepernick is delivering and rewarding Jim Harbaugh's trust. Alex Smith just couldn't have made that 50-yard touchdown run.

6 GIANTS (8-5)

Giants are 2-1 after bye, with two blowout wins over high-octane offenses (Green Bay, New Orleans). They must keep momentum going with the 'Skins breathing down their necks.

7 PACKERS (9-4)

Dug themselves an early hole and then climbed right out of it (thank you, Matt Stafford) while frolicking in the snow at Lambeau. All that was missing was sleigh bells and a Grinch named Brett Favre.

8 RAVENS (9-4)

A two-game losing streak isn't usually cause for great concern, yet Baltimore sure made it feel that way after they gave offensive coordinator Cam Cameron a pink slip following Sunday's game.

9 COLTS (9-4)

Don't look now, but Andrew Luck is two wins away — Colts get Houston twice in the next three weeks — from possibly winning a division title. Do you believe in miracles?

10 BEARS (8-5)

This week is their season. If Chicago can't muster a win at home vs. Green Bay, then they might want to start making some tee times.

11 SEAHAWKS (8-5)

Rookie Russell Wilson threw the ball just 13 times, and the Seahawks bludgeoned Arizona, 58-0. If they crash the postseason party, they'll be a scary out.

12 REDSKINS (7-6)

It's that kind of year in D.C. In previous seasons, RG3's knee would have been ruined and thrown in an exhibit at the Smithsonian. This year, he might not even miss a start as the 'Skins continue a playoff push.

13 VIKINGS (7-6)

It sounds easy enough: Stack the box and just tackle Adrian Peterson. So how come no one can do it? Peterson is 505 yards away from the single-season rushing record and a possible MVP trophy.

14 COWBOYS (7-6)

Could the hated Cowboys actually turn into a feel-good story? It depends how long they can ride the emotional roller-coaster following the tragic death of Jerry Brown.

15 BENGALS (7-6)

Such is life in the NFL. One week, Cincy is the sleeper pick. The next, they're on the bubble. Beating Pitt. and Balt. to close out the season could help.

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▶ Would you want Josh Hamilton on the Phillies?

Report: Phils make offer to Hamilton

Three-year, $80 million deal on table for slugger Would fulfill power bat Manuel welcomes it

Did the Phillies just sneak into the Josh Hamilton sweepstakes?

Over the years, Ruben Amaro Jr. has proved he can be the smoothest talker in the room. So when reports surfaced that the Phils made an offer to Hamilton, no one could have been too surprised.

According to WIP's Anthony Gargano, the team has put a three-year, $80 million deal on the table. That would be a pretty cheap price — $25 million per year with incentives — for a guy who batted .285 with 43 home runs and 128 RBIs last season. Throw him in the cozy confines of Citizens Bank Park and those numbers should rise.

Earlier this week, Phils skipper Charlie Manuel hinted that he wouldn't mind seeing a power bat/corner outfielder added to the lineup.

"Our organization has always tried to improve our team. If there is any way we can, I think that's what we're going to do," Manuel said.

METRO

Soriano swap?

- There was also a report, via Jon Heyman of CBS Sports, that the Phils discussed swapping **Domonic Brown for Alfonso Soriano.**
- **Soriano batted .262 with 32 home runs** for the Cubs last season. Even better, Chicago is willing to eat $26 million of his $36 million salary.

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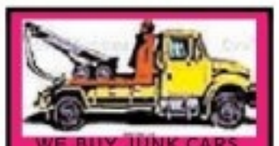

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All eyes on the table

Don't even think about reaching for those poinsettias How to deck your tablescapes this holiday season

▶ Floral designer Michael Gaffney says it's all about practice when it comes to creating your own centerpieces at home.

Stay clear of classic flowers like poinsettias this holiday season.

▶ Use nontraditional flowers like hydrangeas in your holiday focal points this year.

We all want that perfect centerpiece to set the scene when we're entertaining during the holidays, but how can you wow guests without dropping major cash at the fancy florist? Floral designer and founder of American Schools of Flower Design, Michael Gaffney, gives us a crash course.

Get inspired

"Page through magazines looking for a style you like. 'Copy, copy, copy' is my motto. Arrangements in magazines are by designers who know the looks; those are the looks that everybody admires. Sometimes if you just pick it apart, you'll figure it out."

Consider the vessel

"Avoid wicker baskets — in other words, choose the right container. Go out on a limb and use something modern, such as concrete or metal."

Think beyond poinsettia

"Use flowers that you normally don't see. It doesn't have to be poinsettias and white mums, it can be hydrangeas, kale or white stock — which is actually a spring flower, but with pine and cedar it looks beautiful. Use lots of branches — not only the pines and cedars, but dark woods and curly willows can be incorporated into really modern arrangements."

Try these easy tricks

"Take lots of one type of flower and collar it with different materials. Take four bunches of white stock and collar with magnolia leaves, then collar it with another material like pine — very chic, very high-end looking. I also like ornaments where you stick a [branch] in it and you use them as flowers in your design."

Preserve your work

"Designers put bleach in the water. A couple of drops of bleach in an average size vase stops the bacteria from destroying the drinking mechanisms. Also, submerge your flowers underwater for a half hour to 45 minutes — they'll hydrate through the surface. Use a product called Crowning Glory, which is a wax sealant that keeps them from dehydrating. If you don't have that, just spray them with water daily. Flowers are all about water."

Source the best blooms

"Start knowing your source, whether it's your grocery store, florist or wholesale market. When you feel flowers, they should feel almost plastic — which means they're just plump with water."

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Home goods for the holidays: The Yelp gifting guide

Need a little something for your superchic hostess? Or artsy trim for your tree? Yelpers chime in on go-to galleries and boutiques

More gifts

Yelp's local gift guide comes out today. Head over to Yelp.com for more picks from locally owned businesses.

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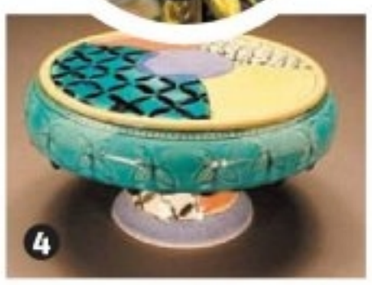

1 For the quirky hostess: Open House, 107 S. 13th St.
"It's the perfect place to pick up a hostess gift. The selection is curated well and also includes things that I'd like, from modern salt and pepper shakers to their trademark Philadelphia tote bags to some wonderful jewelry pieces to whimsical children's items." — EMILY D.

2 For a personal touch: TownHome, 1616 Walnut St.
"It's super tiny in here. Bull-in-a-china-shop tiny. However, it's well worth stopping in from time to time to see what is in store. It's definitely a great place to buy a very special gift for people you like! Perfect for hostess gifts or a gift for friends when you have stayed in their home. They have gifts that you will most likely not find elsewhere — unless you are friends with Elaine, and she can find it for you!" — ANDREA T.

3 For your hipster hostess: Art in the Age, 116 N. Third St.
"I am a big fan of Art in the Age. They offer an amazing selection of professionally handmade clothing, accessories and home goods. I love the rotating art selections and their monthly gatherings where you can meet the artist." — EMILY G.

4 For artful tables: The Clay Studio, 137-139 N. Second St.
"They are constantly stocked with an amazing selection of ceramic products available for purchase from a large collection of artists. There are many different designs and styles, and most are pretty reasonably priced (although I always seem to pine after the unaffordable ones). Most of the items are standard plates, bowls, cups, mugs, jugs, vases, etc. — but there's also more sculptural pieces and jewelry, too." — ZOE P.

5 For crafty housewares: Art Star, 623 N. Second St.
"I love supporting DIY businesses and artists, and this place has got the best finds for art, clothing, accessories and housewares. On more than one occasion I have come in on my way to a shower/party/etc. looking for a last minute gift and always manage to find just the right thing. The two women who co-run the store are both lovely, and it makes me happy to support them." — STACEY R.

6 For design nerds: AIA Bookstore & Design Center, 1218 Arch St.
"Where else can you find books about design and architecture, quirky novelty housewares and gifts, just plain funny books, stationary and greeting cards, handmade children's toys and eco-friendly gifts all in the same place? The AIA Bookstore and Design Center! While I am not an architect or interior designer, I do love to decorate, and I love discovering new hidden treasure shops in the city." — DANA B.

— Yelp is an online urban city guide that helps people find cool places to eat, shop, drink, relax and play, based on the informed opinions of a vibrant and active community of locals in the know. Yelp is the fun and easy way to find, review and talk about what's great — and not so great — in your world.

Real Estate

'Million Dollar Listing' broker scouting Philly properties

Michael Lorber appears to be house-hunting in Philadelphia. The Douglas Elliman broker and former star of Bravo TV's "Million Dollar Listing New York" was recently scoping out properties on the Main Line.

Lorber is apparently looking for an investment property in the area and was taken with an eight-bedroom house in Bryn Mawr.

The 11,873-square foot home, designed by architect Walter Durham, is listed for almost $5 million and features three fireplaces, a pool and 5.8 acres of outdoor space.

Lorber, who is the son of Elliman chairman Howard Lorber, already owns a growing collection of homes.

▶ Lorber has his eye on the Main Line.

GETTY IMAGES

"I own homes in Nantucket, Boston and New York. I hope to spend holidays there."

LORBER, ON HIS $1.3M PALM BEACH PROPERTY

In May, he closed on a $1.3 million Palm Beach house. "I own homes in Nantucket, Boston and New York," Lorber told The Real Deal at the time. "I hope to spend holidays there."

Without his television duties, Lorber may have more time to spend in a swanky new Philadelphia home. In the upcoming second season of "Million Dollar Listing," Lorber will be replaced by Luis D. Ortiz, a recent hire for Keller Williams NYC. Lorber said he had been given the chance to continue his role in the series.

LEIGH KAMPING-CARDER

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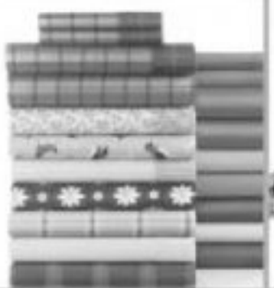
Reg. $69-$79. For her from Sporto and our Style & Co. Top left: Sporto Amanda. ★ WebID 735849.

SALE 39.99
10-PC. & 12-PC. COOKWARE SET
Reg. $99-119.99. **New and only at Macy's.** Stainless steel or nonstick from Tools of the Trade.

60% OFF
ALL COTTON FLANNEL BEDDING
From Martha Stewart Collection™. Sheet sets, comforter covers & accessories in prints and solid colors. **Only at Macy's.** Reg. $40-$260, **sale 15.99-103.99.**



30%-50% OFF
All†† fine jewelry plus, extra 20% off selections
Reg. $200-$8000, **final cost $80-$4480.** Diamonds, sapphires, emeralds, more.

FREE SHIPPING AT MACYS.COM with $99 online purchase. NO PROMO CODE NEEDED; EXCLUSIONS APPLY.

TUESDAY 'TIL 1PM & WEDNESDAY 'TIL 1PM; CANNOT BE USED ON SPECIALS OR SUPER BUYS

★macy's WOW! $10 OFF
$10 OFF ALL SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL AND SELECT HOME ITEMS!

Excludes: Everyday Values (EDV), specials, super buys, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, electrics/electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services, macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value and may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be $25 or more, exclusive of tax and delivery fees.

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YOUR PURCHASE OF $25 OR MORE. VALID 12/11 'TIL 1PM & 12/12/12 'TIL 1PM. LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER.

USE YOUR MACY'S SAVINGS PASS AND TAKE AN EXTRA $10 OFF 'TIL 1PM WED

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BLOG APP

➤ REG. & ORIG. PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES AND SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. SOME ORIG. PRICES NOT IN EFFECT DURING THE PAST 90 DAYS. ONE DAY SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 12/11 & 12/12/2012,. *Intermediate price reductions may have been taken. Orig/Now items will remain at advertised prices after event and are available while supplies last. Savings off reg. prices. ††Does not include watches, designer jewelry or diamond engagement rings. Extra savings are taken off already-reduced sale prices; "final cost" prices reflect extra savings; does not apply to Everyday Values, super buys, specials or trunk shows. Jewelry photos may be enlarged or enhanced to show detail. Fine jewelry at select stores; log on to macys.com for locations. Almost all gemstones have been treated to enhance their beauty and require special care, log on to macys.com/gemstones or ask your sales professional. Advertised merchandise may not becarried at your local Macy's and selection may vary by store. Prices & merchandise may differ at macys.com. Merchandise will be on sale at these and other sale prices through 1/1/2013, except as noted. ★ Enter the WebID in the search box at **MACYS.COM** to order. N2080269.

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